

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
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News Release

April 25, 2008

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Announces Temporary Road Closure

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Manager Mike Bryant announced today that beginning Tuesday, April 29, parts of Milltail Road will be closed to the public due to an on-going Road Maintenance Contract authorized by the Federal Highways Administration to improve 39 miles of roads on the refuge. The contract, which was begun in October of 2007, includes Bear, Brier Hall, Cedar, Dry Ridge North, Grouse, Laurel Bay, Navy Shell, Pamlico, Point Peter, Pollock, Pump, Sawyer Lake, Twiford, and Whipping Creek and was for the amount of \$6,9917,930.

Milltail Road, from the intersection of Sandy Ridge Road to the intersection of Possum Road, will be closed to the public in order to allow alterations for safely hauling gravel for the remaining roads on the southern portion of the refuge.

Bryant explained, "While we hate to see any roads closed to the public, especially a busy road like Milltail, the benefits of this project to refuge visitors far outweigh the inconvenience of having to detour for a month or so."

The status of individual roads in the project follows:

- Blueberry, Grouse, Deep Bay, Sawyer Lake and Bear Roads are complete and open to the public.
- Twiford and River are complete.
- Laurel Bay from Buffalo to Pump is complete.
- Pump is complete and open but trucks continue to haul on it to get to the remaining western end of Laurel.
- Bay to be completed.
- Brier Hall is nearing completion.
- Work is ongoing on Butler and Cedar Roads.
- Work has not been started on Point Peter, Pamlico and Whipping Creek Roads.



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Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Upcoming Road Construction

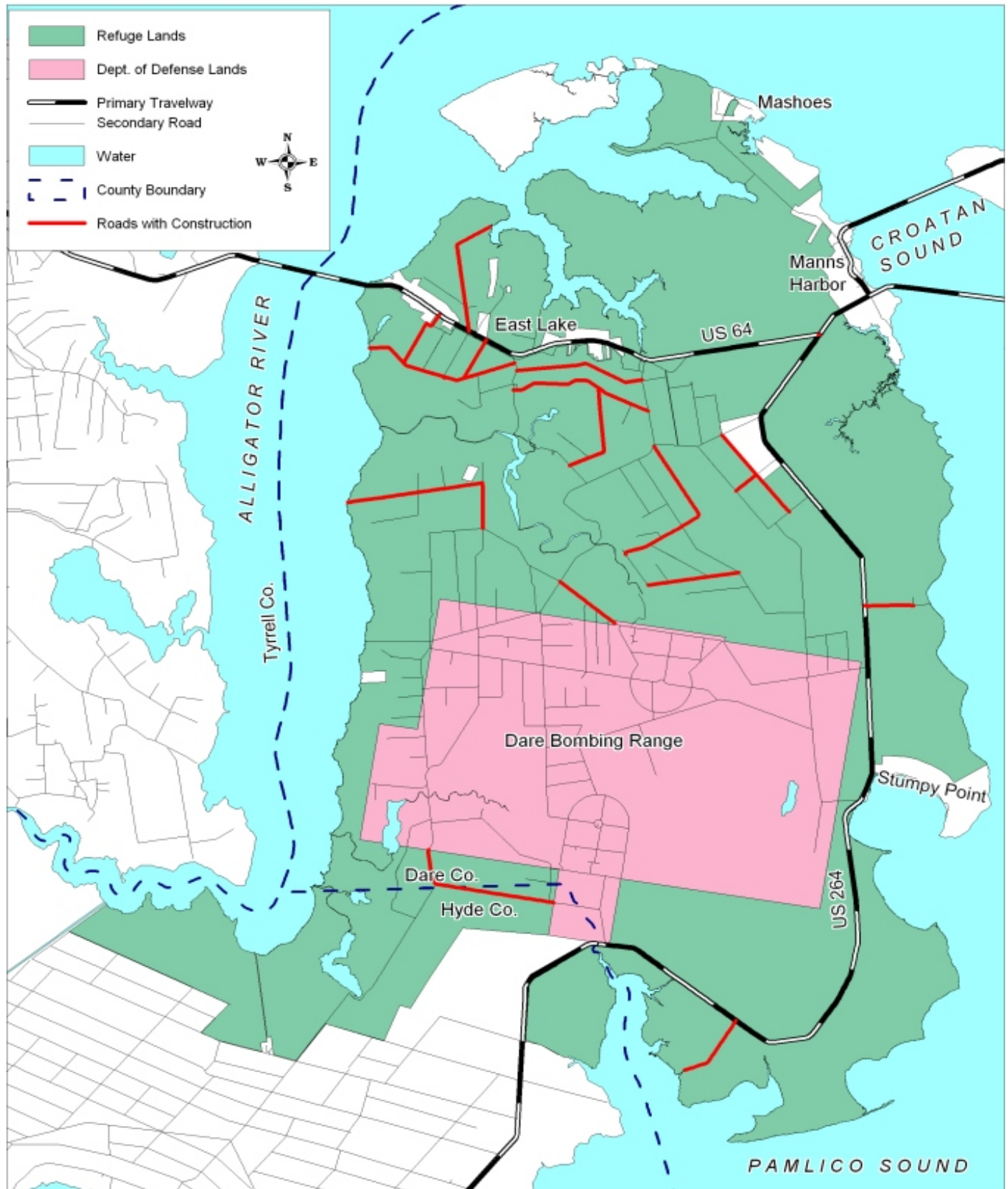


Image credit: FWS

Image caption: Between mid-October, 2007 and late May, 2008 (or later), refuge roads marked on the map above may be closed for relatively short periods of time for road work. The 39 miles of roads in this project include Bear,

Brier Hall, Cedar, Dry Ridge North, Grouse, Laurel Bay, Navy Shell, Pamlico, Point Peter, Pollock, Pump, Sawyer Lake, Twiford, and Whipping Creek. It is unlikely more than two roads will be closed at any given time. For more information or for updates on the progress, visit <http://www.fws.gov/alligatorriver/roads.html> or call 252-473-1131.